

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00  
DODE-00 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05  
NSAE-00 PM-04 OES-06 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 INT-05  
H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 DOTE-00 FMC-01 /098 W  
-----131506Z 055213 /44

O R 131320Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6197

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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LONDON FOR USDEL TO MSC

DEPT PASS EPA FOR STROTHER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, EWWT, SENV, INCO, US, UR

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION

REFS (A) STATE A-1345, (B) STATE 60283, (C) STATE 82056,  
(D) MOSCOW 4818,

1. SCICOUNS DISCUSSED, APRIL 13, ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES ON  
MARINE OIL POLLUTION WITH ALEXANDR P. MOROZOV, GENERAL TECHNICAL  
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MANAGER OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE USSR  
MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE, AND PROVIDED HIM WITH APPROPRIATE  
EXTRACTS OF REFS A, B, AND C. FYI, MOROZOV SUBSTITUTED FOR V.K.  
DUBCHAK, CHIEF OF THE TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE MINISTRY  
OF MERCHANT MARINE, WHO IS IN THE HOSPITAL WITH A HEART  
ATTACK. END FYI.

2. AFTER SCICOUNS RAN THROUGH THE TALKING POINTS PER REFTEL D MOROZOV MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

(A) THE SOVIETS CONSIDER MARINE OIL POLLUTION A SERIOUS PROBLEM AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE U.S. ON THIS UNDER BOTH IMCO AUSPICES AND BILATERALLY. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SOVIET AND U.S. EXPERTS ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION IS EXCELLENT AS A RESULT OF THE BILATERAL WORKING GROUP ON PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BILATERAL (02.06). THE MATERIALS PRESENTED BY THE EMBASSY ON THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE WILL BE IMMEDIATELY FORWARDED TO APPROPRIATE SOVIET EXPERTS, INCLUDING THE DELEGATES TO THE APRIL 18 IMCO LONDON MEETING, FOR THEIR REVIEW AND COMMENTS.

(B) THE SOVIETS SAW NO PROBLEM WITH RAISING THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE AT THE APRIL, MAY AND JUNE EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEETINGS. HOWEVER, IT IS TOO EARLY TO STATE WHAT THE SOVIET POSITION WOULD BE ON THE PROSPECTIVE CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE COORDINATION OUTSIDE THE MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE.

(C) BESIDES DISCUSSIONS WITHIN IMCO THE SOVIETS LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THE PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE WITH THE COAST GUARD DELEGATION WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT MOSCOW THIS MAY-JUNE UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT. MOROZOV EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CAPTAIN SCHUBERT WOULD BE HEADING THE DELEGATION. (PROJECT 02.0611)

(D) WHILE THE SOVIET UNION RECOGNIZES THAT THE COST OF CLEANING UP MARINE POLLUTION FAR EXCEEDS THE COST OF SUCH PREVENTIVE MEASURES AS OUTLINED IN THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE, THIS RAISES ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND LEGAL QUESTIONS WHICH REQUIRE INTENSIVE STUDY. WHEN ASKED BY SCICOUNS FOR SPECIFICS, MOROZOV CITED THE EXPENSE IN CONSTRUCTING DOUBLE BOTTOMS FOR NEW TANKERS AND THE EX-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TENSIVE REFITTING OF VENTILATION AND BALLAST SYSTEMS ON TANKERS ALREADY IN SERVICE. MOROZOV, NOTING THAT THE COST OF REFITTING OLD TANKERS WOULD ALSO HEAVILY HIT U.S. SHIPPERS, INQUIRED WHETHER THE NEW U.S. REGULATIONS WOULD APPLY TO ALL TANKERS BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC. SCICOUNS RESPONDED THAT THE REGULATIONS WIL BE UNIVERSALLY APPLICABLE FOR ALL TANKERS CALLING AT U.S. PORTS. MOROZOV ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WERE ALREADY KNOTTY LEGAL PROBLEMS OF IDENTIFYING MARINE POLLUTERS, TO WHICH SCICOUNS RESPONDED THAT THE THRUST OF THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE IS NOT IDENTIFICATION OF POLLUTERS BUT PREVENTION OF POLLUTION.

(E) MOROZOV ENDED THE DISCUSSION BY EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE NEW U.S. REGULATIONS WILL NOT RESULT IN THE U.S. HAVING MARINE POLLUTION STANDARDS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF ITS IMCO PARTNERS. SCICOUNS RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS PRECISELY THE ADMINISTRATION'S HOPE AND THAT WE WISHED TO WORK WITH OUR IMCO PARTNERS CLOSELY SO THAT TIGHTER MARINE POLLUTION REGULATIONS WOULD BE UNIVERSAL. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT DOES CLEARLY UNDERLINE OUR DETERMINATION TO HAVE STRICTER MARINE POLLUTION IN FORCE IN U.S. PORTS IN FIVE YEARS.

3. COMMENT. MOROZOV INDICATED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN THE U.S. THREE TIMES UNDER THE US-USSR BILATERAL ON MARINE POLLUTION AND IS WORKING CLOSELY ON THIS ACTIVITY NOW. HIS ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION WAS FORTHCOMING AND POSITIVE, AND WHILE IT IS PREMATURE TO STATE WHAT THE POSITION OF THE SOVIET UNION WILL BE ON THE DETAILS OF THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE, THE GROUNDWORK FOR CLOSE COOPERATION BOTH BILATERALLY AND THROUGH IMCO HAS BEEN LAID. THE EMBASSY WISHES TO NOTE THAT THIS IS GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE BENEFITS TO BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE CLOSE WORKING CONTACTS THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT. END COMMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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